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Cardinal songs
Juno Award winner Celeigh Cardinal wowed the crowd at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Saturday, April 19. For more photos, see inside this edition. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Candidates meeting draws full house

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The Lindsay BIA and the Lindsay Chamber joined forces to offer the only major candidates meeting in the Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes riding on April 15 at the Pie Eyed Monk in the heart of Lindsay.

While all candidates were invited, the only individuals present were Nell Thomas for the Liberal Party and Jamie Schmale for Conservatives.

The event began at 6:30 p.m., and within minutes, it was standing room only, with dozens being turned away at the doors due to the capacity of the space.

With the business-centric hosts, attendees were encouraged to ask questions with specific business angles. Candidates were given one minute to open, up to three minutes to respond to each question, and two minutes to close.

Thomas opened first. "Whatever your political leaning," started the Minden-based physician, "we are here because we know our country is facing a very real threat from the United States.

see CANDIDATES page 2

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Candidates bring differing opinions to debate

from page 1

A threat to our economy, to our democracy, to the very existence of our country." She was adamant that Mark Carney's government is not Justin Trudeau's government. "Prime Minister Carney is not a career politician," she said. "I am not a career politician. We are skilled emergency responders, and this is what our country needs right now to build a united, strong, and dignified Canada."

Schmale opened up about his history of being from Fenelon Falls, and his background in journalism, which gave him his first taste of politics. "This is a very important election," he said. "I think each and every one of us knows that."

Following opening remarks, the candidates dove right into questions. The first few questions surrounded arts and culture, specific to Lindsay.

They were then challenged on the carbon tax. Thomas noted that Mark Carney has eliminated the carbon tax, and said that we are already reaping the benefits of that cut. Though she noted it was important to understand the tax in the broader sense of it. "Around the world, there is a pollution responsibility tax that is very effective in many, many countries … " she said. "My opinion on that is that we can look to those countries where it is very effective at reducing unnecessary use of fuel. We know we are living in a warming climate. Part of that is reducing our consumption of oil and gas."

"No I do not support a carbon tax," retorted Schmale. He referred to the carbon tax as a "cash grab" for the government. He noted that the tax is not done, it is temporarily suspended.

The candidates were then directed towards affordable daycare. Schmale shared his personal experience of trying to get his own child into daycare. "Daycare has become unaffordable," he said. "And we need more spaces. I recognize this is a problem, and it continues to be a problem."

In rebuttal, Thomas noted that the federal Conservative candidate Pierre Poilievre has actually voted against the ten dollar a day daycare offering, which was presented by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "Mark Carney has prioritized a number of things that will improve daycare access," she said. "Training of early childhood educators, increasing the number of training programs, and supporting parental leave so we can have (parents) taking time from work to look after the kids at home."

The topic of the CBC came up, in light of Poilievre sharing that he intends to cut funding to the cross-Canada news source. Schmale confirmed that the CBC will remain untouched, "but what we want to see is a change in structure to the CBC," said Schmale.

Thomas called the CBC "one of Canada's most trusted institutions." In an era of misinformation and disinformation is being circulated around the country, including fake AI images used of Mark Carney in an effort to sway the election results, she believes that having a trusted news source is of the utmost importance.

The candidates were then challenged with the question of the national deficit. "Canada has the lowest debt in the G7 countries," opened Thomas. "Our economy expanded by 2.4 per cent last year. Canada is not hurting. We are ranked number two, best country for investment, in the G7 nations." She went on to say that it's important to understand that some of the information presented around this topic comes from the Fraser Institute; a Conservative organization "that is a right wing, incorrect, non-factual source," she said.

Jamie Schmale thanks the attendees at the all-candidates meeting on April 14 at the Pie Eyed Monk in Lindsay. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Nell Thomas outlines her background and her reasoning for steeping into the role of Liberal candidate for Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes.

> *"This is a very important election. I think each and every one of us knows that."*
>
> — Jamie Schmale, Conservative Party

> *"I didn't set out to be a politician ... My heart is with my 1,200 patients in Minden, but my conscience is with the country."*
>
> — Nell Thomas, Liberal Party

Thomas shared that the Liberal Party intends to invest in Canada. "We have this amazing opportunity right now to reimagine this country," she said. She encouraged everyone to go and read Mark Carney's platform around investing in this country.

"You need the right candidate to create investment," said Schmale, during his window to speak. He noted the national debt is over one trillion dollars. "How do you grow a country when you are spending more on debt than you are on healthcare," he quipped. "We need to get spending under control while at the same time, growing our economy."

The hot topic seemed to surround crime, and how it is "skyrocketing" across the country. "Petty crime is getting out of control," said Schmale. "And these are repeat offenders. They need jail, not bail." Schmale said he hopes to create a system where "the worst of the worst" are kept behind bars.

Thomas dove into that topic from a different angle. "We need to support the people at risk," she said. "You can't jail yourself out of a problem. Jails are expensive." She noted that in the last 25 years, violent and non-violent crime has dwindled in the country, with the exception of increased crime amongst Indigenous and racialized groups. "What does that tell us about our society?" she asked. "We need to reduce the overall number of people who are slipping into a life of crime … jail is costly, courts are full, we need to stop this at the front end."

Both candidates encouraged voters to take the time to research the individual platforms of each party and candidate. They were also aligned on getting individuals to stop damages and vandalism to political signs and media. "Keep it classy," said Schmale.

The candidates thanked the organizers for putting the event together, and the attendees for being present. "The fact that you're here means you care about our democracy," said Schmale. He went on to close by saying that he believes crime is increasing, food bank usage has increased, and he hopes to put forward ideas for "how to restore the Canadian dream." He called it "an honour and a privilege" to serve as MP for the past decade, and reminded individuals to vote on election day.

Thomas closed by sharing her backstory a bit. "I didn't set out to be a politician," she said, noting her sense of duty for the community that she cited as guiding her through life. "My heart is with my 1,200 patients in Minden, but my conscience is with the country." Thomas went on to say that she knows the critical issues of this riding, because every day, she is up close and personal with the struggles. "Don't believe that Canada is broken," she said. "We are in unprecedented times. Now is not the time to pit groups against each other and create conflict that divides and weakens this country … We need a unified and solid Canada."

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Public health unit wraps community's arms around youth

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Public health officials will roll out a program in the coming weeks that is hoped will curb youth drug use.

Dr. Thomas Piggott, the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough (HKNP) Health Unit's medical officer of health, said during the board's April 16 meeting that a big part of the effort is youth drug abuse prevention.

The Peterborough facet of HKNP began in 2019 to investigate the effectiveness of the Icelandic Prevention Model (IPM).

"At the time directors of education with the school boards were also really excited about this," he said. "COVID-19 paused this work, like with so many things."

Funding was eventually granted and HKNP became one of seven sites across Canada to take the IPM for a spin in a pilot project. Public health officials have been trained and the model will be brought to Peterborough schools this spring.

"As capacity allows, staff will look at other communities," Piggott said. "We do know that the drug poisoning crisis we're faced with is significant."

He spoke about early prevention as being a pillar of the model's effectiveness.

Really early prevention.

"The zero to two years of life is very important," Piggott said. "We also know that as kids progress through school, there's really a critical window where, as the Icelandic Prevention Model dictates, if we can wrap our community's arms around children and really support them we can send kids on a different trajectory than that what we see for a lot of people, unfortunately, now."

The work will take decades before you see how it comes to fruition, he said.

"Because the challenges that we see today have been decades in the making," he said.

Martha Faulkner, a HKNP public health nurse, and Lora Keitel, the Peterborough Drug Strategy's coordinator, will get the IPM off the ground locally.

In 2023, there was 71 deaths by way of drug poisoning in the region.

Peterborough ranks sixth highest in Ontario for youth self-reported underage drinking and highest in the province for Emergency Department visits for cannabis-related harms.

The tobacco cigarettes use in Grades 7-12 in Peterborough is above the provincial average.

"The stats do paint a stark picture of the challenges that our local youth face and demonstrate a significant depth of harms and a need for prevention efforts in our community," Faulkner said.

Adolescence is a crucial stage for healthy development. Unfortunately, young people tend to engage in more risky behaviours during the adolescent years.

"They're likely to experiment with substances for a variety of reasons," she said.

Social inclusion and belonging, poor mental health, challenges coping with life stress, as well as just wanting to try something different.

Though there are many groups and organizations in the community that work with young people coping with the effect of drug use, most of that work is reactive treatment.

"We're never going to treat our way out of the mental health and substance use crisis that we're in right now," Faulkner said.

Rather, a focus on prevention and harm reduction should be taken to achieve the required change for communities. And that's how the IPM might prove effective.

The model has been successful around the world, she said. It's about implementing a long-term community-driven approach to ensure youth are immersed in healthy, supportive social environments.

That approach basically involves parents and family with a person's peer group and it employs school and leisure time.

"So this requires the active and collaborative participation of the whole community for the IPM," she said. "And Peterborough has a long history of community collaboration for positive social change and the work is already underway to improve the wellbeing of our youths today."

Keitel said Planet Youth, a consultant firm in Iceland, will work with HKNP to implement the IPM's 10-step process.

"By the time you get to Step 10, it really is encouraging reflection and repetition of the steps again in a new cycle," Keitel said.

HKNP has filled its boots over the last year with the first three steps of the process. Those are the foundation building steps, Keitel said.

"To ensure that we have this solid foundation for the long term," she said.

The guidance program is a primary prevention approach, she said. It is designed to enhance the social environment. The Planet Youth approach has shown that building a community environment that delays the onset of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs for as long as possible is an effective to reducing long-term health problems related to substance use.

"The approach, though, really requires a shift in our thinking," she said. "It views society as the patient and really focuses on enhancing all of those environments."

It doesn't focus on a person's individual behaviour. When those social surroundings are supportive, it makes it easier for youth to learn and sustain healthy behaviour.

"Primary prevention takes time," Keitel said. "We need to think about it as a process that helps guide communities to learn, grow, and develop solutions that will work locally."

To that end, community collaboration is crucial, she said.

Cecil Ryall, the health board's vice-chairperson and Haliburton County's representative, said he wishes somebody experienced in the Planet Youth approach had been around in his teen years.

"I'm a product of the '60s," he said. "I can honestly say that because I don't remember much from 1967 after. But one thing I can tell you is one of the things that were most dominant in that time period to make the changes that we had to make - because if you thought drugs are bad now they were really bad then - was that we got the actual kids involved."

The young people were spoken to by officials as if they were peers, he said.

"You're not going to change a darn thing unless you change peer pressure and peer acceptability," Ryall said. "If it's acceptable to vape, there is not a thing you can do about it because if I want to be part of a crew - and everybody wants to be part of a crew somewhere - I have to vape."

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Measles increases provincially, but local region spared

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

The region under the umbrella of the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough public health unit remains untouched by Ontario's measles outbreak.

Dr. Thomas Piggott, the HKNP Health Unit's medical officer of health, said during the board's April 16 meeting that there has been no local confirmed cases of measles.

"But there continues to be lots of additional cases provincially," he said.

According to provincial public health updates, there have been 816 confirmed cases in Ontario since last fall, he said.

"Which is significant," Piggott said. "It's exponential compared to recent years and that's really because vaccination rates have fallen."

Those 816 cases stretch across 15 of the province's 29 public health units. Focused further, more than half of those cases are in regions served by two public health units with key communities that have had very low vaccine uptake.

Despite 61 hospitalizations, there has been no deaths during the current outbreak, he said.

Local public health officials reported just last month that there were 350 cases across 11 health units, including neighbouring public health units.

"We did see a death in Ontario a couple of years ago from measles, so we know this is still a potentially fatal illness," Piggott said. "Sixty-one hospitalizations, that's a lot of people very severely sick from measles."

Teams with the local public health unit continue preparations to respond should HKNP be drawn into the outbreak geography.

Piggott said in March that preparations include ongoing school surveillance, public education awareness, and ensuring contact tracing readiness.

The outbreak has come as close as Hastings County and Simcoe County. The challenge presented by a large outbreak like the current one is vaccine effectiveness. Two doses of the vaccine has proven to be 97 per cent effective, he said.

"The way to arrest measles in its tracks is to increase vaccine coverage," he said. "And one of the most important strategies we have to do is hard work, supporting access to vaccines, and enforcing the Immunization of School Pupils Act, which is legislation designed to protect the health of children."

Ensuring school-aged children are adequately vaccinated is a lot of work for public health officials, Piggott said. But that burden of work is carried out in a collaborative manner to ensure the best access possible for families.

"We see coverage rates jump up significantly when this (public health work) is in place," he said. "In the last few years we've seen more people that are choosing to refuse vaccination for their children, which I think is really unfortunate given how important and life-saving the interventions are."

There is a group of people who have forgotten, or have become complacent, or haven't been able to access vaccines. And that makes the work done by public health officials, even though it is a lot of work, more important to stop measles in its tracks, he said.

"It is really important," Piggott said. "I've worked before in provinces without that kind of legislation and you really miss out on a critical opportunity to make sure our kids are protected against life-threatening illnesses."

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The right to vote; getting young people to the ballots

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

In light of the upcoming federal election, voter turnout is top of mind.

Many are quick to point fingers in different directions about how the votes can make the maximum impact, and often, younger individuals are on the receiving end of the blame game.

It's no secret that voting amongst young professionals has been on a steady decline. According to Elections Canada, in the 2021 federal vote, 75 per cent of folks between the ages of 65 to 74 exercised their civic duty. In a stark contrast, 47 per cent of individuals between the ages of 18 to 24 chose to use their voices.

"Voting is habit forming," says Election Canada. "If a person votes in the first election after they turn 18, they will probably be a lifelong voter. On the other hand, those who do not vote in that first election are unlikely to pick up the habit later in life."

So that young vote is a major one. And with minimal life experience under their belts, these first-time voters are dependent on the education from their family, their friends, and most importantly, their school.

"We are required to run a civics course in Grade 10," says Haliburton Highlands Secondary School vice principal Martin Gage. "It is an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirement, so every single student has gone through that course."

The course was revised in September, 2022. The half credit program is designed to help students become informed and active citizens in their communities, with a deep dive into all levels of government. With the reformation of the program in 2022, teachers have incorporated the role of social media into their lessons, and its impact on civic engagement and politics.

Broken into three large categories, the course focuses on political inquiry and skill development, civic awareness, and civic engagement, service, and action.

Beyond the Grade 10 course, the high school also ensures that politics is woven into other grades and programs, such as Canadian History.

Teacher Paul Longo has been working with students in the Grade 12 history program, and has jumped into the complexities of Canadian politics.

Sometimes, the best way to learn is to tackle the topics first hand, and with that in mind, Longo and his class will be hosting a student vote on April 28, to mirror the federal election vote scheduled for that same day. While Longo noted that he cannot force students to vote in the school election, it's a great opportunity to get students involved and interested in the political arenas. Results from the student election will be shared in the newspaper as they are available.

So why aren't young professionals voting? In 2015, Elections Canada conducted a survey to get to the bottom of it. The findings included the facts that students seemed less interested in politics, less strongly that their voices will make a difference (particularly in 'safe' ridings like Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes), the strongly believe that the government does not care what they think, and often, they carry the tendency to see voting as a choice rather than a civic duty.

It was also noted that more youth did not receive a paper voter information card, and were often less aware of the process to register and vote.

Voting is important to do at any age, and any stage. For more information on the coming election, visit www.elections.ca.

Much music

Celeigh Cardinal took to the stage at the Northern Lights Pavilion on April 19 to share her stories and songs with a captivated crowd. The show was opened by acoustic local musician Jamie McGowan. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Personal

I AM NOT sure if it's a direct result of the actions coming from our neighbours to the south, but there's been a shift in the feelings around these elections lately.

The wind is a little chillier, the attitudes a little cooler.

So much of it no longer feels political; not red and blue and opposite sides of the room.

It feels personal.

I attended the all-candidates meeting in Lindsay this past week. Their Chamber of Commerce put the event on, and it was standing-room-only, with dozens being turned away at the door due to capacity of the space.

It shows a need for the candidates to be present in all parts of the riding, but unfortunately, it is not up to them to coordinate these gatherings. I know a few local grassroots groups tested the waters to see if something could be done locally, but in a tight turnaround of an election, their efforts fell flat.

emily stonehouse

Editorial

It should be the responsibility of the Chamber (or a similar organization) to address this gap that so many constituents will now fall through based on lack of knowledge. Hopefully in elections to come, our local Chamber can take some initiative to get the ball rolling, as their efforts were entirely absent this time around.

But I digress.

The room at Pie Eyed Monk in Lindsay was filled to the rafters with interested voters.

That's a good thing.

But in the presence of two highly prepared candidates, I was reminded that it was in actuality, not an all-candidates meeting.

It was a half-candidates meeting. Only two out of the four names on the ballot showed up.

Nell Thomas of the Liberal Party and Jamie Schmale for Conservatives were eager, prepared, and professional. While I was readying myself for quips and squawks, the two candidates played off one another with ease and relative comfort. It was enlightening. Honestly, it was a joy to watch.

And while Schmale stuck to his guns (literally. He was very adamant about 'proper' punishment to local criminals), Thomas was able to snap back with educated and thorough responses.

I think we've been missing this in politics. The natural rapport, the dialogue, the questions and answers that ricochet off one another. That meeting felt personal. It felt real.

The NDP candidate in our riding was not present, and while that's discouraging, it's not surprising. If anything, perhaps their absence could mitigate the risk of splitting the left vote.

The Peoples Party of Canada rep was also a no-show, despite plastering the region with their purple signs. If you take a second to look at their platforms, they are anti-trans, anti-climate change, anti-multiculturalism, pro-guns, pro-life, and pro-racism. I'm not surprised they didn't show up.

Because to them, it's not about politics, it's all personal.

There is a time and place for politics to be personal. I used to think it was all or nothing, but as I have waded the waters of yet another election and gotten to know the faces behind it, I realize that the lines are constantly blurred. You cannot have politics without the people, and people without the politics.

So as we head into our voting stages, we need to think about who chooses to put people - all people - first.

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Bright pastel shades add some colour to the grey spring days. /photo submitted by E. Bunny

Action

"MANY OF you are walking love letters and you don't even realize it. You're lighting up rooms, shifting atmospheres and carrying inspiration just by being you. It is such a precious gift." It's Earth Action Day and I love the idea that we can each be a walking love letter for this planet, our earth. For all of life. For all the beings we share this earth with - those that fly and hop and buzz and sting and slither and roar and hiss. We all share this planet and we all have a responsibility to love it in the ways that we can.

The mission of Earth Action Day is to "diversify, educate and activate" the environmental movement worldwide. It began in 1970 and is the world's largest recruiter for the environmental movement. There are 150,00 partners in over 192 counties all working for a healthier planet. Earth Action Day acknowledges that all actions matter. My husband has been out birding all day with a group of his friends. They spend so much time walking, listening, waiting and observing. They are always learning and then they share their stories and experiences and help to build more awareness and understanding of the bird life in the area. That's one of his ways of taking action.

On the day this article comes out I will be starting a seven day silent meditation retreat. I spend seven days with no phone, or book, or journal or computer. It's just me, myself and I. I am part of a group of about 30 people and we sit and walk quietly with all of life. There is lots of time for us to be outside and without the distractions of my daily life I can slow down and really become present with the spring that will unfold in front of me. I will observe the leaves as they start to open. Butterflies will return. Peepers will call. There will be lots of birds passing through. Flowers will start to pop up. I will sit and do walking meditations under the quiet evening sky as the sun sets. I will rise early in the morning and watch the sun as it rises over the apple orchard.

Tales from the great

lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

My love letter to the earth is in the pause. In the sitting and in the quiet. In the remembering that all of life is sacred. And when I am done, my intention is to return home and continue to advocate for all of life. I have good friends who do a lot of volunteer work related to promoting the use of electrical vehicles and heat pumps. Others are avid gardeners. Many are trying to eliminate the use of plastics. Some are making movies about the importance of sustainable logging. Others write their politicians and attend rallies to make their voices heard. We humans are creative and smart and very diverse. There are so many ways to take action. Everything helps. Be a walking love letter. Happy Earth Action Day!

points of view

Getting juiced

steve galea

Loon Tales

A FEW DAYS ago, Jenn sent me to the grocery store to buy orange juice. But when I got home, I realized I had made a horrible mistake. I had accidentally bought orange juice with pulp, and Jenn only drinks pulp-free orange juice.

Worse still, I bought the 2.5 litre jug, because the label said it was made in Canada. Also, it was reasonably priced. I know that claim sounds very suspicious. But the price was quite reasonable.

In Jenn's defence, she tried it after pouring it through a sieve. Unfortunately, she still got more pulp than she bargained for, and she strained herself. So, the following day I went back and bought another jug of orange juice, this time pulp-free for her.

That's a round about way of saying we've got a lot of orange juice in our fridge right now.

Which is fine. The issue is that, normally, I only drink a juice glass every morning at breakfast – with three fingers of orange juice in it. Jenn drinks even less.

But I also know the clock is ticking. Refrigerated orange juice lasts only 7 to 10 days, and we have a little more than four litres in the fridge right now. And no vodka.

So, I did the only thing I could. I have taken to day-drinking orange juice.

Don't judge me. I know it's not right.

The thing is I can handle it. I go to town, write columns, talk on the phone and no one even suspects that I'm juiced.

Sure, there are telltale signs, if you look closely. For instance, I don't have scurvy.

You know what? A lot of people don't. That doesn't prove anything.

The problem is orange juice is addictive.

It is probably the only thing that has pulp in it that is. No one likes pulp in their milk or water or coffee. But it's OK in orange juice. Heck, it's even good.

Right now, I'm up to three glasses a day.

But I'm not hurting anyone. I like my orange juice!

I love the feel of pulp in my teeth. It makes me feel alive! It dulls the soul-numbing pain that comes from knowing that I have not lived life to the fullest. I have not climbed that mountain I want to climb! I have not swam with great white sharks or been the front man in a successful boy band. Nor have I ran with the bulls, or finished that grate Canadian novel. And before you point out that I spelled great wrong, I meant grate because my main character is a waiter in a high-end Italian restaurant who grates parmesan cheese for a living OK? He has worn, stubby fingers from years of plying his trade. But he also is relatable, with a heart of gold – and he has a pet dwarf giraffe named Aldo (just because I needed more irony). And he is an old soul who still plays piano beautifully, despite his rough fingers. Oh sure, it's a Fisher-Price piano, but that's all he can afford. You think grating parmesan cheese pays well? Well then, you are wrong!

Oh God! I'm sorry. That's the orange juice talking…

On second thought, maybe I do have a problem. I kind of suspected that yesterday afternoon when I poured myself a big glass of orange juice and said, "Hey! It's 7 a.m. somewhere right!"

The worst part was I was drinking alone.

Look, I know this is a goofy column. But you'll have to excuse me. I've never been good at writing pulp fiction …

pic *of the* past

The Coneybeare Family of Haliburton: Fourth Row - Ulric (Buzz), Erwin (Sunny); Third Row - Bernice (Blair), Gemima (mother), Loretta Henderson, Lloyd, Eileen, Jack (father); Second Row - Margaret, Ruth. Lorena, Verna and Betty Henderson; First Row - Brier, Eve, Blake. Lloyd and Ulric served in the RCAF in the war years. To support the war effort, there were War Bond Drives and on one occasion Lloyd in his RCAF uniform lead the parade through Haliburton. Their Father Jack became a highly skilled millwright - which is a key position in a mill. Jack also became an expert in planning, designing and supervising the construction of saw mills. In the early 1930s he built the following mills for Clayton Hodgson. One on the new Eagle Lake Rd., the West Guilford Rd. (todays town dump location) and in 1936 Coleman Lake, 1940 Fort Irwin and 1945 Halls Lake. In May 1948 Jack was working near the main power shaft when his clothing got caught in the machinery. Howard Roberts and some other men carried Jack outside where he died. This ended the life and career of an exceptional craftsman. In the lumber industry he was known for his knowledge, skill and good work habits and is sadly missed. Thanks to Brier Coneybeare for the photo and information for the story. Submitted by Tom Hodgson/FILE

letters to the editor

A chess move

To the Editor,

I decided to abandon my long time practice of voting for social democracy and instead vote for the Liberal Party of Canada on Mon., April 28. Although I dislike being pushed into voting for a party I distrust to avoid a party I dislike; that is practicing strategic voting in a bipolar world. I deliberately use a medical term for a serious medical condition because I think our politics is very ill.

The cure is a form of proportional representation that aims to represent every significant point of view fairly and accurately. That is representative democracy, representation of voters nothing else.

I recommend to you an initiative The Peterborough Alliance For Progressive Voting Action described by Dr. Jessi Dobyns, M.D. on the CBC radio programme Ontario Morning this morning Mon. April 14.

As Dr. Dobyns said this morning 'voting is a chess move not a valentine.' She herself was quoting the American writer and activist Rebecca Solent in a very old American magazine,*The Nation.*

Jim Milne,
Haliburton

More letters to the Editor on page 8

letters to the editor

Small town love

To the Editor,

Thank you to everyone who came to the Minden Curling Club last week to talk about why this is the most important election of our lifetimes. It was an opportunity for people from all political parties to share questions and answers, to be heard and to be reassured. There is no question, it was an enthusiastic crowd that left the room.

Thank you to the Curling Club and to all of the organizers who made this event happen.

And thank you very much to Dr. Gretchen Roedde, the physician currently covering my Minden patient practice. Your devotion to our community's healthcare is very much appreciated. We benefitted from your contribution to the conversation about current and future healthcare transformation. With creative and solution-oriented leadership, we know these positive and essential changes will happen.

Last week, I shared reasons why I love living in a small town. Recently, I had to deposit a check to my mother's estate account at the TD Bank. The check was made out to "Jenny Thomas," but her bank account was under the name Jane Anne Thomas. The bank teller said she could not deposit the check because the name did not match. Overhearing the conversation, another employee leaned forward and said "I remember working with Nell's mom at the food bank. She went by the name Jenny. I can vouch for that." And the check was deposited.

In the thick of the ice storm, I had neither cash nor gas in my car and I was late for an appointment in Lindsay. I had visited four gas stations between Haliburton and Minden and they all required cash. Parking outside the TD Bank, I was running toward the door when somebody said, "there's not much point Nell; the bank is closed and there is no cash." After hearing my predicament, he and two other people reached in their pockets and handed me some cash, which put gas in my car and got me to Lindsay.

These are just two reasons why I love living in a small town.

I also shared the two reasons that told me stepping up to be the Liberal candidate for this riding was meant to be.

Before I started the application for candidacy with the Liberal party, I placed an ad for coverage of my caseload. And I got a bite. Dr. Roedde said she would be available "whenever you need me."

After the application process was complete, the Liberal party informed me I was the official candidate and that there were no other applicants. If I had not stepped up, there would have been no opposition.

This election is about protecting our country. I know that together we can do that.

Dr. Nell Thomas, Liberal candidate
Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes
Family physician
Minden

Good luck to the Pinestone

To the Editor,

It was nice to read your article about refresh plans for the Pinestone. I'm always impressed with the picturesque view of the golf course and ponds as I drive along County Rd 21. Many folks from outside of the community seemed to know about the golf resort, and I'm sure it drew some of them here. It was disappointing when the Pinestone stopped hosting the big Canadian Pond Hockey Tournament a few years ago. The community benefits from bringing in tourists especially during the slower winter months. I wish Mr. MacMillan and Burke good luck with their efforts to revitalize the property and resort. And I hope they consider bringing back the Pond Hockey Tournament. After all, hockey is one of the many great things the area is known for.

Dave Sands,
Haliburton

How to vote in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes: everything you need to know

JESSICA SLADE

Special to the Echo

If you've been following along over the past few weeks, we've looked at why this election matters - even in a riding that can feel predictable - and how to figure out which party or candidate aligns with your priorities.

Now, with Election Day just around the corner, it's time to get practical. Whether you've had your mind made up for weeks or are still feeling undecided, here's a simple, non-partisan guide to casting your ballot in Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes.

Election Day is Monday, April 28

Polls are open from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. across the riding. If you haven't voted yet, this is your moment - and your voice still matters. Don't let distance, uncertainty, or misinformation keep you from participating.

Where to vote

Your polling location is printed on your voter information card - the white and purple card sent to your home by Elections Canada. If you didn't get one or misplaced it, that's okay. You can still vote. Visit elections.ca or call 1-800-463-6868 to find your polling station.

If you live in a rural area, your polling station may be a bit of a drive. Give yourself extra time - and if transportation is a barrier, consider carpooling with a neighbour or reaching out to a local campaign office, many of which help connect voters with rides to the polls.

What to bring

To vote, you need to prove both your identity and your address. You can:

Bring one piece of government-issued photo ID with your name and address (like a driver's licence),

Or bring two pieces of ID with your name, and at least one with your address (such as a health card and a utility bill),

Or, if you don't have ID, someone from your riding can vouch for you - they just need to be registered and show their own ID.

Yes, you can bring your kids! Voting is an excellent opportunity to model civic participation for your children. You're allowed to bring them into the voting booth with you, and it sends a powerful message that democracy is something we do together. They may not understand all the details, but they'll remember that it matters.

Need time off to vote? You're entitled to it. Under Canadian law, employers must ensure you have three consecutive hours to vote. If your shift doesn't allow for that, your employer must give you paid time off to make it happen. Talk to your employer in advance if you need that time.

Still undecided on how to vote? That's okay. Many voters make their final decision in the last few days. Here's how to approach it:

Think about what matters most to you - housing, healthcare, affordability, climate, rural services - whatever hits closest to home.

Look up party platforms online or use a comparison tool like Vote Compass.

Consider the candidates themselves. Who do you trust to represent your community?

Avoid last-minute misinformation. Stick to reliable, non-partisan sources like Elections Canada, CBC, or your local newspaper.

Bottom line, voting doesn't have to be complicated. You don't need to have all the answers. You just need to show up, bring ID, and make a choice that reflects your values.

Because in the end, democracy only works when we take part in it - together.

See you at the polls.

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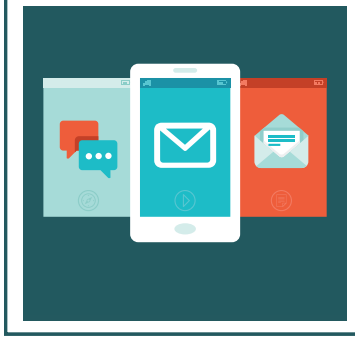

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

The Homebuilders Association jumped into hosting a community job fair for the students of the Haliburton Highlands. Left, a paramedic teaches high school students how to check their vitals. Right, Kirstley Dams from the County of Haliburton talks about different volunteer opportunities with local students. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Job fair encourages local kids to tackle the trades

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

While the students of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) may go off to explore the world, the Homebuilder's Association wants people to know that there are plenty of opportunities, right here at home.

On April 16, 33 businesses and organizations from across the county set up booths in the high school gym to showcase their offerings. "We wanted to open up everything at multiple levels," said Aggie Tose, the organizer of the event. "We wanted to show all the types of employment that are available right here in Haliburton."

The full-day event was catered to students from ages Grade 8 and up. The organizers coordinated bussing to ensure the senior students from Archie Stouffer could also participate. "It's a pretty hyped up event," said secondary school teacher Renato D'Ambrosio. "There are a lot of trades here, but it's not just the trades," he said. "There are also a lot of volunteer opportunities available for the students to get their volunteer hours."

Andrew Brown of Haliburton Crew custom homes has been attending the event since it started, for three years before the COVID-19 pandemic put the event on pause, and the three events that have occurred following the pandemic. "We really need more people in the trades," he said. "With the elections happening now, everyone is promising housing, but no one is thinking about who's going to build those houses."

Brown noted that speaking to the students is key. "We should be talking to these students, and getting them ready to be in the trades," he said.

Other organizations present were Compass Early Years Centre, the County of Haliburton, local paramedics, police officers, and fire crews. Canoe FM had a booth set up, and were having fun recording students who wanted to practice their 'radio voices' for the station.

Each booth had neon signs indicating whether there were student job openings, co-op opportunities, and/or upcoming volunteer occasions. While some tables had a simplified set-up, others included interactive activities and challenges to get the students involved.

The students were split up by grade, with Grade 9s starting first thing in the morning, and working their way up. Each student was given a scavenger hunt sheet in an effort to encourage them to open up to the visiting businesses.

"This wasn't here when I went to Hal High," said Eleanor Dobbins of CDH Carpentry LTD. "But it's so great to be able to talk to kids who are interested in this kind of work." Dobbins noted that at that point, CDH had put a number of students through trades school, and intends to continue that for future employees. "We definitely need more people in the trades to be working locally," she said.

For more information on the Haliburton County Homebuilders Association, visit their website at www.hchba.ca.

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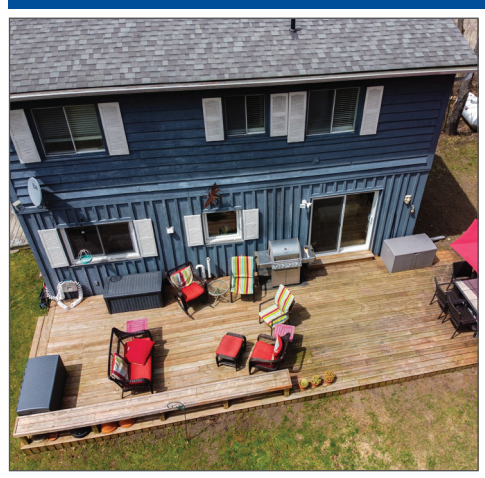

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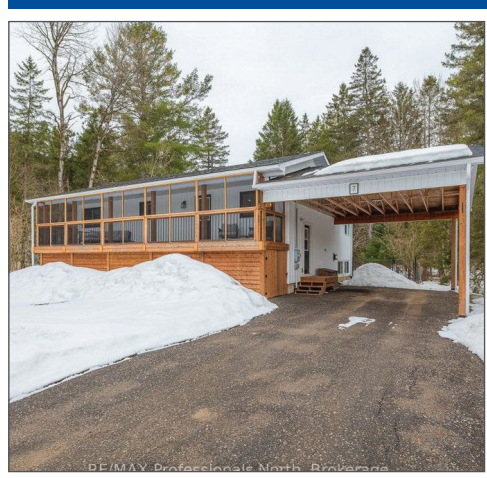

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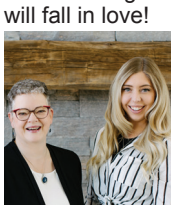

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Local school board rubs shoulders with Swedish educators

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Oftentimes exposure to foreign influences is a good thing.

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) was such an influence on Swedish educators and received influence from those visitors.

In collaboration with the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC), the TLDSB welcomed Swedish educators as part of an education study tour.

According to a press release, Lomma in southern Sweden has a strong tradition of educational excellence. Over the past two years, a team consisting of a superintendent of schools, seven elementary school principals, and their colleagues completed the internationally renowned International School Leadership Certificate Program.

As the culminating experience of their learning journey, the team embarked on a study tour to TLDSB that took place in early April.

"This visit offered a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights into the Ontario education system at the school, district, and provincial levels," the board stated in its press release.

Participants explored the varying roles of school administrators across international contexts, observed effective classroom practices, and collaborated with peers to build a global professional network. Additionally, they contributed to and learned from international best practices in educational leadership and administration.

On day one of the tour, the Lomma Team met with TLDSB senior administration who provided background on the Ontario education system and delivered a presentation outlining the board's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan and instructional leadership priorities.

The Lomma Team presented the structure of the education system in Sweden and provided cultural highlights about their municipality.

> ***"This visit offered a unique opportunity to gain valuable insights into the Ontario education system at the school, district, and provincial levels."***
>
> — Trillium Lakelands District School Board

"It was a pleasure to host the team from Lomma, Sweden, and to have the opportunity to share our strategic actions as a learning organization," said Jennifer Johnston, TLDSB superintendent of learning. "We are seeing significant improvements in student achievement, equity, and well-being as a result of our focus on supporting educators to use data to drive effective and explicit classroom practices.

"We have also been placing an intentional focus on supporting principals to prioritize instructional leadership daily. The Lomma team had important reflections to share with us about the interesting similarities and differences between the two education systems, and said they were impressed to see the work of our educators, principals, and superintendents in action."

Two days consisted of elementary school visits in the City of Kawartha Lakes to Alexandra Public School, Parkview Public School, Queen Victoria Public School, and Scott Young Public School.

Throughout the tours, the Swedish educators visited classrooms and childcare centres during instructional periods to see real-time learning taking place. They were able to ask questions of the educators and administrators.

On the final day of the tour, the Lomma Team visited the TLDSB Lindsay Education Centre where they were joined by members of the TLDSB Indigenous Student Success Team, educators from Langton Public School, and Brittany Taylor, a local Indigenous community partner.

The educators took part in a smudge and learned about how Indigenous teachings are embedded into the curriculum in TLDSB. They then visited I.E. Weldon Secondary School where they learned about the school's Grade 8 transition to high school strategies.

"The OPC and the Lomma Team deeply appreciate TLDSB's generosity in facilitating this collaboration," said Joni Heard, an OPC instructor and consultant. "They hope this partnership will foster lasting connections between Swedish and Canadian school and system leaders, strengthening global educational ties and sharing best practices."

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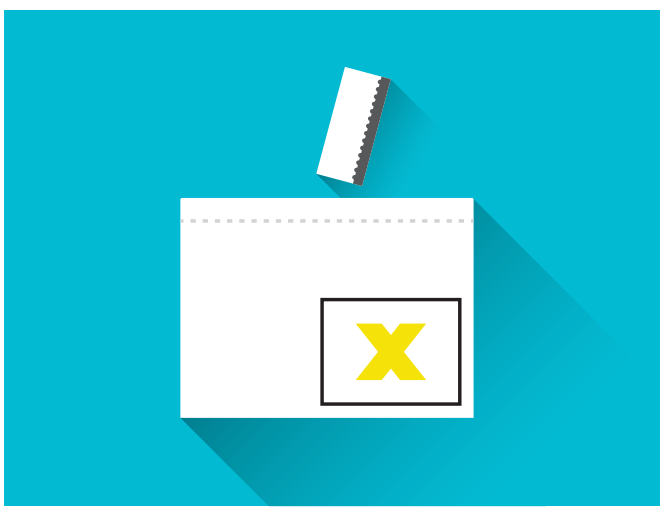

- are a Canadian citizen
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Check your voter information card or visit elections.ca to find out where and when you can vote.

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Elections Canada

Dracula: coming to a stage near you

WILLOW BROWN

Special to the Echo

Theatre isn't just saying lines on stage. It is sharing the story of a character, no matter how small. It is making audience members cry from the portrayal of characters and the story. It is finding a safe place for you to be yourself. Theatre has affected many people in many different ways. Whether it be those who thrive on stage, or those who like being behind the scenes, or maybe just the audience members, everyone is affected by theatre.

Theatre can show the storylines of all the characters. Every character in a show on stage has a journey that they go through, whether it be your main character, or supporting characters. Theatre can allow you to meet people of all different walks of life. When I first met Ella Leis from Ctrl-ART-Del, I felt welcomed and included. There is always a spot for people in the theatre community. Ctrl-ART-Del brings shows to the stage that are typically contemporary stories with deeper meaning. In the summer, they did *The Wolves*, which followed a girls' soccer team and how they dealt with grief. Last April, they did *Mustard*, which showed us how to come out of childhood and become an adult. This April we're delving into the 1890s for Dracula. I have always felt welcome and seen in the theatre community. I've made many friends and gotten closer with some teachers outside the classroom.

Lindsay Jowett and Willow Brown stay in character during a rehearsal of *Dracula* for their upcoming shows. /submitted

Many people I know have been impacted by theatre in some way. One of my best friends, Jessica McCready-DeBruin, has been doing Ctrl-ART-Del shows since they started. She says, "I was given a place where I can experiment and try new things." Through theatre and Ctrl-ART-Del, she says she grew her confidence and has grown socially through theatre. She found a new hobby in something she loves. Spencer Zumpano was behind the scenes for Ctrl-ART-Del shows when they came to Haliburton in November of 2023. He says, "Theatre allows me to be around the people I like, and become different people onstage." He says while theatre is challenging, it is an overall good experience. Christine Carr, French and English teacher at HHSS, has worked with Ctrl-ART-Del both onstage and backstage. She says, "It taught me there's no right age to get into something new, and that you can earn new skills at any point in your life." She tells me that it helped her become more comfortable and confident in herself, as well as being able to surround herself with new people. Chloe Brown may be new to theatre, but she already loves it. "Theatre has helped me find myself more," she says, "And find something I loved doing." Ella Leis is one of the founders of Ctrl-ART-Del, and believes it is important for theatre to be for everyone from all walks of life. "It is a space where you can start playing with different versions of yourself," she told me, "and a safe place to explore and work out personal issues." Through theatre, Ella made herself a family. She met her adoptive parents through theatre and couldn't be happier. "Theatre is built for those who need a safe space," she concludes.

Theatre affects everyone differently, however Ctrl-ART-Del has something for everyone. You'll grow your confidence, meet new people, and even find your own family.

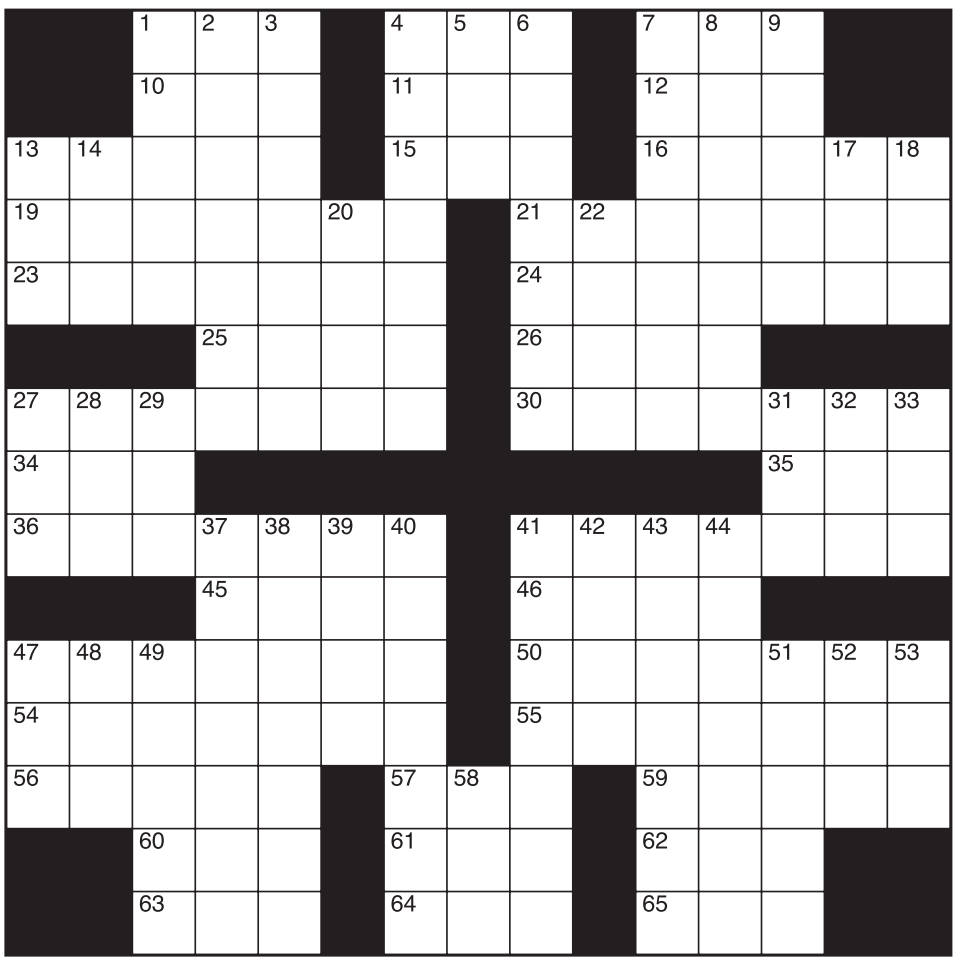
You can see Willow in her upcoming performances in "Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors", from April 24 to 26th (tickets.ctrlartdel.ca), or in A Midsummer Night's Dream from May 23 to 25 (follow HHSS Social Media for more info).

Bunny hop

Rain didn't keep the Easter Bunny from visiting Abbey Gardens on April 19. The full-day event hosted kids of all ages to check out Easter crafts, play with the local ponies, and explore the forest for Easter eggs. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Go Jaguars!

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School juniors made the trek to Minden to participate in a half-day basketball tournament in the Archie Stouffer gym. Despite working hard, the green team did not win the series, but ensured they fought hard as a team and had fun. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff



CLUES ACROSS
1. English TV station
4. It fuels cars
7. Where ships dock (abbr.)
10. Indigenous people of Thailand
11. Midway between northeast and east
12. Small Milky Way constellation
13. Fritz __, Austrian chemist
15. A Brit's grandmother
16. Colombian city
19. Visualize
21. Charged
23. PeopleÕs assets
24. Informative books
25. Jeer
26. You can do it with your horn
27. Agents of your downfall
30. Central Uganda city
34. Supervises flying
35. Type of tree
36. Alfalfa
41. Dishwasher soap brand
45. Hall where military eats
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Speaks incessantly
50. Discuss again
54. Extreme greed
55. Adopt or support
56. Fantasy writer Russell
57. Seize
59. Early Mesoamerican civilization
60. Noted pet detective Ventura
61. Automobile
62. Georgia rockers
63. Color opposite green
64. Amount of time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN
1. Sheep sound
2. Some can be emotional
3. Inflammation of colon lining
4. Origins
5. Comedienne Gasteyer
6. Perceived by the senses
7. A place to play ball
8. Occur before
9. Animal body parts
13. Thanksgiving dessert
14. Root mean square (abbr.)
17. 1960s teen idol Bobby
18. Promotional materials
20. One point east of northeast
22. Piers Anthony protagonist
27. Popular sports league
28. Cologne
29. Partner to cheese
31. Constrictor snake
32. Not good
33. Supplement with difficulty
37. Hug with fondness
38. Enforced again
39. Small amount of time (abbr.)
40. Substance
41. Anterior parts of the brain
42. Brews
43. Where ships load cargo
44. Holiday season singer
47. "__ humbug!"
48. Monetary unit of Macao
49. Popular children's book elephant
51. Glutinous
52. Function
53. Old world, new
58. Swiss river0

Answers on page 15

Red Hawk pride

Spring and summer sports are officially underway at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, including badminton, track and field, and soccer, pictured. Once the snow melts, the teams will be taking their practices outdoors. /TIM YANO staff photographer

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

		Y	R	T		A	R	E		D	E	R		
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C	E	M	L	O		B	A	N		N	A	B	O	H
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Municipality of Highlands East — Yours to Explore — highlandseast.ca

Notice
(Applicant – Valiquette/Pelletier)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Pt. Shore Road Allowance for road along the shore o**f Little Glamor Lake**,more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**, at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Pt. Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 34, Concession 13, Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 2 and 3 on Plan 19R-11088 made by **P. A. Miller Surveying Ltd., completed January 16 th, 2023.** *(Part 3 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 22nd day of April, 2025.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Municipality of Highlands East — Yours to Explore — highlandseast.ca

Notice
(Applicant – Mahut)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-Law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance for road along the shore of **Koshlong Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**, at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in Front of Lot 6, Concession 15, Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan 19R-11087, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed June 14, 2022**.

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Part of the Shore Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 22nd day of April, 2025.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca

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Township of Algonquin Highlands

Township of Algonquin Highlands

We are currently accepting resumes for the following position:

Digital Transformation Coordinator

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday May 1, 2025 to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Board of Directors Opportunity

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, provides a broad range of services including mental health, child development, youth justice and the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub.

We are seeking members who are knowledgeable of the health sector, mental health, fundraising, and who have legal and facilities expertise.

Point in Time seeks, whenever possible, Board members who are representative of the following diversity standards: race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, record of offences, marital status, family status, disability, or consumer of services.

For more information, please visit our web site: https://www.pointintime.ca/opportunities/volunteers/

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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Camp Northland is a residential summer camp located in the beautiful Haliburton Highlands, for children aged 7-16. We are looking to hire candidates to join our Maintenance team, with opportunities to live on or off-site. For more information about our camp, visit www.campnbb.com

Regular day-to-day work can include, but is not limited to, lawn care, landscaping, cleaning, sweeping, mopping and sanitizing all camp buildings, camp garbage collection and disposal, building/carpentry, repairing, and painting.

Expected Start date: Spring 2025
Previous experience in maintenance, landscaping, managing commercial water systems, septic systems or related fields are assets.
Candidates will be trained on-site and should enjoy working outside in a team oriented, collaborative environment. Candidates can expect to work approx 42 hours per week. Must be willing to complete all government related certifications, including WHIMS. Multiple types of positions are available.

Salary: $18-$28 per hour, based on position and experience

To apply, please submit resume and application letter to Simon@campnbb.com

The Municipality of Dysart et al is recruiting a
Municipal Treasurer

Due to an upcoming retirement, we are seeking applications from experienced and qualified candidates to fulfill the senior management position of Municipal Treasurer.

The complete detailed job description can be viewed through the Municipal website at: www.dysartetal.ca/careers

We offer a comprehensive benefit program and enrolment in the OMERS pension plan and a competitive salary grid from $122,866 to $143,760 per annum.

Please submit a resume and cover letter, preferably via email, no later than 4:00 pm on Friday May 2, 2025, to the attention of the Human Resources Manager – Municipality of Dysart et al – hr@dysartetal.ca P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodation for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only foremployment purposes.

580 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Robert Edward (Bob) Clark,

Bob was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend to many including his wife Willa-Jean of 68 years, children Jane (Tim), Ted (Nora), Ron (Susan) and Howard (predeceased), grandchildren Colin, Andrew, Ryan, Tyler, Melissa and Emma. He was a brother to Anne, Ruth (predeceased), Bernice (predeceased) and Jack (predeceased), and uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Bob started life in Banner, Ontario and moved to Toronto in the 1950s before retiring with Jean to Haliburton. He spent his working life as a carpenter and woodworker. He used these skills to renovate and update their Rexdale home. He then turned his attention to building a cottage that later became their retirement home on Soyers Lake in Haliburton. This was the hub for many family and friend gatherings. When not tinkering and woodworking in the shop, he enjoyed being a curler, chorister, square dancer and always a reader. His gentle nature and good humour will be missed by his family and friends.

The family will receive friends and family at Rod Abrams Funeral Home, 1666 Tottenham Road, Tottenham 905-936-3477 on Tuesday April 22, 2025, from 2pm - 4pm and 6pm - 8pm. Funeral service will be held in the chapel on Wednesday April 23, 2025 at 11am. Cremation will follow. Donations to JAK Fund (a local charity to assist troubled youth who need a helping hand) or Diabetes Canada would be greatly appreciated by the family. Online condolences or messages for the family can be left at www.RodAbramsFuneralHome.com.

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 97 No. 37 Wednesday, May 2, 1979 "The voice of the Highlands" 18 pages

Accomodation grading system being sought

The controversial Ontario grading study has again raised its head. At a recent Tourism Ontario meeting, Resorts Ontario proposed the grading advisory committee be reconvened to discuss grading of accommodation.

Tourism Ontario, (an umbrella association for Resorts Ontario, Ontario Hotel and Motel Association, Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters, and Ontario Motel Association) had shelved a two-and-one-half year grading study because one of its members, OH & MA withdrew its support last fall.

At the recent Tourism Ontario meeting, OH & MA agreed to reconsider a grading system. According to president Bernice Marsh, "the OH & MA is willing to cooperate with a grading study, not the grading study."

President of Resorts Ontario, Art Ward, said his board of directors wanted to reinstate the grading system because members felt they were denied something. "It's just a desire to have more information."

With Resort Ontario members as willing guinea pigs, the Ontario government is willing to bear the cost of testing grading.

"I hope that dialogue will be in the context of how and when we get grading underway, not if. In simple terms - I am determined to do it and we are going to proceed on that basis," Larry Grossman, Ontario Minister of Industry and Tourism said at the annual convention of Resorts Ontario.

Grossman took a strong stand: "We are going to move forward to testing grading on the open market. I was gratified to see Resorts Ontario take a leadership role

Cont'd page 2

The cafeteria at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School is taking on a new look these days. Students of the grade 12 Family Studies course are painting designs on the walls of the room in an effort to brighten school spirit and to give them a chance to put to work the theories of organization they've learned in class. Applying border tape are, from right to left, Ellen Anderson, Jeannine Daigle and Cindy Carnochan.

Plenty of problems but very few solutions for economic commission

A lack of forest management, an absence of loans for small businessmen and a shortage of new lakefront property for development were among the problems brought to the attention of the Haliburton County Economic Development Commission Friday night in Wilberforce.

Eight Briefs were presented at the workshop, the third in a series of three meetings intended to give county ratepayers a chance to air their economic concerns.

More than 40 people turned up at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre to hear public presentations to the nine member committee.

First brief of the evening came from Bruce Gibbs of Wilberforce Veneer and Lumber, who told the commission that too little effort was going into forest management in the county.

"There hasn't been any promotion given to forest management," Gibbs said. "There has to be a more concentrated effort and it's got to start at the local level."

He suggested the commission should use its influence to promote funding from government and private institutions for an ongoing forest management program.

Gibbs said consideration should also be given to using wood waste for the production of energy in the county. Experiments are currently underway in other areas to convert waste into small pellets "that might be used to replace oil in automated furnaces," Gibbs said.

He also suggested the possibility that a plant could be located in the county to produce artificial fire logs, the majority of which are presently manufactured in the United States.

Speaking for the Mountain Lake Property Owners Association, Patrick Daniel, area NDP candidate, said the owners supported the idea of long range planning, but that they felt public input should be allowed into planning decisions. Daniel suggested associations such as the one he represented should be notified of upcoming planning decisions that would be of direct interest to them. He also recommended that nominations for planning groups should be sought from various property owners and cottagers' associations.

Speaking as a political candidate in the upcoming federal election, Daniel said one of the keys to development was better co-operation between small businessmen and government. He also urged the commission to use caution in seeking to attract industry to the area.

"Let's not rush into introducing into Haliburton, new industry that could do more harm than good in the long term," he said.

Martin Hoffman, owner of the Flying Dutchman woodworking shop in Haliburton Village, told the commission the government wasn't doing enough for the small businessman. Hoffman said the commission should use its influence to persuade the government to make small low interest loans available for people who wanted to start a business and thus contribute to economic growth.

Hoffman also suggested municipalities should begin a glass recycling program at various dumpsites, with the money collected from the sale of the glass being donated to charities.

Jane Hepplestone of the Canada Manpower Outreach Office in Haliburton outlined for the commission the various assistance programs available to help employers and employees.

Sonya Holliday-Rhodes, chairman of the Haliburton County Anti-Pollution Committee, recommended that the commission set up an impartial task force to examine the environmental impact of any industry before it allowed it to locate in the county. She said the committee was particularly concerned about possible pollution from uranium mining and pulp plants.

Commission chairman Glen Hodgson said the Commission shared the anti-pollution committee's concerns, and that consideration would be given to establishing a central site for industry where various environmental

Cont'd page 2

Cracked girder forces repair of MTC bridge in Kinmount

Traffic flow over the Burnt River bridge in Kinmount has been reduced to a single lane and a load limit of ten tons has been imposed following the discovery of a cracked girder on the bridge's east side.

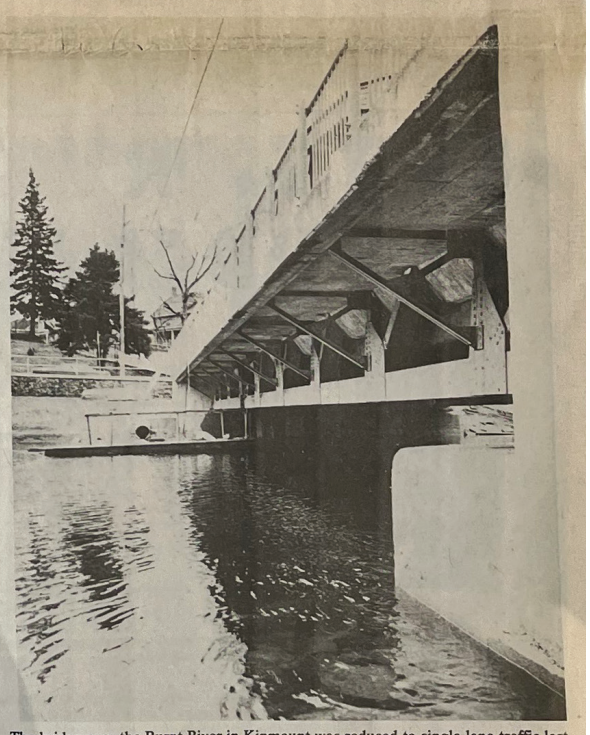
Spokesmen for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications say the single lane traffic flow and the ten ton limit will continue until a bailey bridge can be constructed to allow for repair or replacement of the girder.

Workmen from the MTC were on the site last week examining the condition of the bridge, which has a normal load limit of 43 tons.

A fisherman is reported to have noticed the cracked girder and reported it to the authorities, forcing the reduction in traffic.

Cause of the damage is still unknown according to Malcolm McMaster District Engineer at the Port Hope office of the Ministry. He speculated, however, that expansion and contraction of the beam in the severe cold weather this past winter could have been a factor in the break.

The bridge was reported to have been checked by Ministry officials last summer and found to be in safe condition.



The bridge over the Burnt River in Kinmount was reduced to single lane traffic last week following the discovery of a break in the bridge's main supporting beam on the east side. Work to repair the break has begun, and a bailey bridge may have to be built to allow repairs to be completed. Load limit on the bridge has been set at 10 tons.

Cottager will urge county council to begin liming acid stressed area lakes

At least one area cottager is tired of the government's attitude toward the acid rain problem and has come up with a plan to do something about it.

Mike Collins, a cottager in Monmouth Township, told a special meeting of Monmouth council last Thursday that the county should begin its own program to lime area lakes stressed by acid rain.

An industrial chemist who said he has done research in the Sudbury area, Collins claimed the government is not acting fast enough to save area lakes, which have gradually been becoming acidified over the last 20 years from atmospheric pollution.

When the problem first surfaced the government claimed it wasn't important, Collins said. Later it admitted the problem was serious but said it wasn't serious enough to do something about. And recently, Collins said, the government has acknowledged that the problem is extremely serious but continues to maintain that nothing can be done about it in the immediate future.

Collins said the government's claim that it doesn't have sufficient money to begin an expensive program to save precambrian shield lakes from the effects of acid rain is "nonsense".

"You can't just write off an area," he said.

Since the government has as yet come up with no concrete plan to save area lakes from the damage acid rain causes, Collins said the county should tackle the problem on its own.

"We don't need to involve experts," he said. "We have

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Farmers not getting their share - Logan

Farmers in Haliburton and Victoria Counties are not getting their share of "the agricultural pie" according to the area Liberal candidate.

Speaking in Cambray on April 25, David Logan said farmers in both counties" have been neglected regarding the availability of information and leadership required to direct them to take advantage of the funds that are available."

As an example, Logan said that in 1978-79, to January 31, only $54,400 was received from the Feed-freight Assistance Adjustment Fund. Contributions equal to 30 percent of capital expenditures (to a maximum of $1,500 per farmer) for permanent storage structures for grain, silage and haylage, driers, grain handling systems, feed preparation and distribution systems, were available.

"Thus, at maximum, something in the order of 36 farmers were assisted. I suggest that more could be helped if the lines of communication could be opened," Logan said.

The Liberal candidate also said farmers should be aware that contributions equal to 50 percent of the cost, up to a maximum of $10,000 were available to the farmer innovator who developed new technologies which would have improved grain production. Only $8,500 was received in Victoria and Haliburton Counties in 1978-79 to January 31, 1979.

"This meagre amount speaks for itself," Logan said.

Logan claimed the people of the county need a member of parliament "who knows the doors that have to be opened."

HHSS class redecorating cafeteria to boost spirit

Jeannine Daigle and her grade 12 Family Studies course classmates have managed to turn learning into practical experience.

The 18-year old student and her classmates at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School are working on a project involving painting the walls of the school's cafeteria. The aim is to use the skills learned by the class, to brighten the cafeteria and increase school spirit.

The class is actually the design committee for the project, under the supervision of teacher Rosie Kenney.

"We figured since the cafeteria was the focal point of the school, it would be a perfect place for the project," said Daigle.

A similar project was undertaken by last year's class, which painted the lockers throughout the school. The Board of Education has given their approval to the project, and will be sponsoring the costs.

The 15 students working on the cafeteria project are now part-way through the scheme. A base coat has been applied to the walls, and one of the classmates has designed the graphics which will be applied to the walls.

All the work is voluntary, and the students work after school and on weekends. With the number of people working on the project, Daigle says they are able to maintain "different crews and different shifts to work."

Judging by the smiles on the students' faces when they are painting, it's an extra-curricular activity that's worth the work it takes.

The annual track meet at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School is on today, but at press time, the weather was less than agreeable, as Keith and Phil Smith found out. The boys, both grade 12 students, were out on the school's track Tuesday trying to remove as many of the potholes and as much water as possible.

"Theft" was an effort to prevent a theft

It looked like a theft, but it wasn't. It seems that Mountainview Lodge near Gooderham (what is left after a fire some time ago) was entered between January 15 and April 24 and a jukebox and a shuffleboard were removed.

The total estimate of the items was $2,300. Following an investigation by OPP Constable Mike Maher, both items were recovered.

The property had been removed by a third party who took them into safe keeping so they wouldn't be stolen.

No charges have been laid.

Lutterworth council lodges protest of '79 Board of Education apportionment

Lutterworth Township council has lodged a protest over the apportionment of 1979 Haliburton County Board of Education levies.

Lutterworth's share of this year's approximately $4.8 million Board of Education budget is $203,066. Last year's levy to Lutterworth was $181,879.

The increase amounts to 11.7 percent, the highest increase in the county. Levies were up an average of 9.2 percent for all Haliburton County municipalities this year.

Jim Leworthy, business administrator for the board, said Monday that Lutterworth's assessment (the basis on which levies are apportioned to municipalities) has grown by 3.41 percent in the last year, compared to an overall assessment increase across the county of 1.8 percent. The assessment increase in Lutterworth has resulted in a corresponding increase in the portion of the total school board levy that Lutterworth has been asked to pay.

Lutterworth council, however, isn't satisfied that the apportionment is fair, and has decided to contest it.

"We're one of the smallest townships and we got the biggest whack," reeve Ron Gambell said Tuesday. "We feel we have to protest on behalf of the taxpayers."

Under the terms of the Education Act of 1974, a board of arbitarion consisting of all of the municipal clerk treasurers in the county will be called to consider the Lutterworth protest. That meeting is scheduled for May 17.

The arbitration board is empowered to adjust the apportionment if it agrees with Lutterworth's contention that the percentages are unfair. That isn't likely to happen however, because any change in the Lutterworth apportionment would result in an increase in the levies for other county municipalities.

Once the clerks hand down their decision, Lutterworth will have 30 days in which to file a further protest with the Ontario Municipal Board.

A number of such appeals have been launched in the past in Haliburton County,

Cont'd page 2

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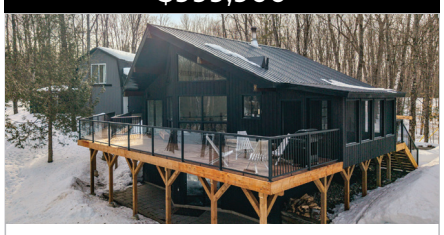

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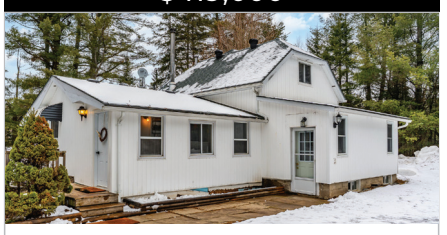

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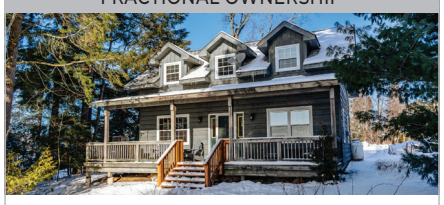

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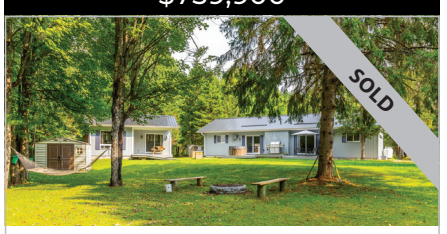

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